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holidays proposes to wipe out Annunciation, Corpus Christi, and St. Peter's and St. Paul's Days as legal holidays.

The removal of the stamp duties and postage upon newspapers, and last year the duties upon sugar and

The medical profession is also well represented by two clever M.D.'s. The public school is pre-

Gray—On the 25th ult., the wife of Joseph Gray, of a son.
Scott—On the 26th ult., the wife of James Scott, of a daughter.

AGRICULTURAL.

Economy of Good Roads.

At a recent public meeting at Abington, Pa., Professor Lewis M. Hunt, of the University of Pennsylvania, told some of the truths of road construction. "There is no tax so great as that of bad roads, and it is generally accepted maxim," he said, "and it is true. The horses have to be fed, although they cannot be used, and the cost of keeping a horse is \$125 per year. If the road surface be made harder merely by metaling it, then one horse can do the work of two, and the feed and interest on one is saved. It is estimated in England that in the mere saving in cost by reducing their roads to such a condition that such horses can do the work of four, there has been an economy of \$100,000,000 effected annually. In the State of Illinois, it is stated that the cost of hauling farm products is at least \$15,000,000 more than it would be if the roads were improved, and that such improvement would add \$100,000,000 to the value of the farms. I am well aware that properties on mud roads cannot be sold, while those on macadamized roads have increased in value in a great many sections from \$50 to \$500 per acre."

Will it pay? I have only to refer you to the precedents of other countries for an answer. It will not, why do we find England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and many other civilized countries, building the best roads they can in the face of difficulties which to us would be appalling. The poor Swiss have built roads through gorges and around precipices which would seem impossible and which must have cost over \$1,000,000 per mile.

What will roads cost? The answer must be guarded by the dimensions, character of metal, soils, grades, drainage, etc., but the prices for turnpike range from \$2,000 to \$10,000 per mile. Very fair roads under favorable conditions have been laid for \$3,000, and when a drop bottoming and drainage are required it may run up to \$10,000, but I should say, with rolling topography, varied soil and fair material, they should not exceed \$7,000. It is better, in my opinion, to build the roads by general subscription than to farm out the franchises to joint stock companies, as in that case the condition of the roads is dependent upon the liberality of the company, while the community must pay enough in tolls to provide for the maintenance of the road, and the shareholders and dividends to the stockholders. The system of working out the taxes by plowing up the gullies and throwing the muck over on the road should be called working in the tax, as it makes the road soft, and in a short time the rain and travel have washed the soil back and clogged up the ditches, so that no permanent result is obtained.

The farmer hauls everything he uses over the roads, and it is easily seen that he pays more for his transportation than any one else because of the great resistance offered by sandy or muddy roads.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Sixty-four governments issue patents. Earthquakes in Japan average 500 a year. A Baltimore lady has a pet dog that wears diamond collar.

St. Louis, Mo., is not a part of any county, neither is Baltimore, Md.

Last year Arizona produced \$3,000,000 in gold, and \$2,000,000 in silver.

The initials of an express messenger in Atchison, Kansas, are C. G. D.

It costs \$100,000,000 annually to maintain the criminals in the United States.

A three-winged goose struts around the yard of Mrs. Samuel Lutz, of Worcester, Pa.

A rooster with horns one and one-half inches long, is a pet in the house of E. F. Walker, of Morgantown, N. C.

S. E. Wilcox, of Des Moines, Iowa, has a keen eye. He has carved out of the bowl of a snuffbox upon the whole of the Lord's prayer.

On the death of a person in Madrid it is the general custom to close for nine days one of the outer doors of that person's late residence.

The college endowments of Massachusetts amount to \$10,000,000; and the value of college grounds and buildings in that State is \$5,000,000.

Wines produced in years when comets are visible are said to be superior in flavor to the vintage of other years, and command higher prices.

Edison thinks that his new phonograph will register sounds as distinctly as the human ear. His instrument will intensify them so that they can be distinctly heard when reproduced.

A St. Louis inventor thinks he has almost solved the problem of aerial navigation. He has constructed an airship which sails on the water. To make it sail on the air is all that bothers him just now.

In eleven years past the number of deaths in France has exceeded the births. In 1891 the excess of deaths over births was 10,000. An actual decline in population has been only prevented by immigration.

Enterprising undertakers in London, when they hear of cases of serious illness in families, call upon the families of the patients, express condolence, and leave circulars containing prices and illustrations of funeral outfits.

Everything was progressing nicely between Frederick Hupp and his betrothed, in Bartholomew County, Ind. He decided that he would marry her, and then took three-quarters of an hour in convincing them to renounce the luxuries and empty pleasures in life.

A pair of muskrats emerged from a drain in the house of Mrs. Sarah Howard, of Hingham, Me. One was found in the kitchen. They take milk from the cat's udder, by dipping their claws in the fluid, and then licking the milk from the fur. The cat pays no attention to the muskrats, but the kittens occasionally eat them.

A trial for murder was on in Northampton, England. The jury, at recess, were permitted to have lunch served in their room. One of the jurors bolted his food, and then hurried out to post a letter. His conduct came to the ears of the judge, and he not only severely rebuked the juror, but fined him £50, dismissed the entire jury, and impanelled a new one.

Lots of fun attended the efforts of 250 farmers near Virginia, Ill., who had started out on a wolf drive. They formed themselves in a circle, which they gradually narrowed, thinking they would kill or wound at least ten wolves. When the closing hunters came in sight of each other, there were just two wolves in the circle, and even these managed to escape.

Mr. A. H. Appgar, of Marlborough, N. Y., bought a new patent carbonized fuel stove, and his family were delighted. As they sat around the new stove, suddenly one after another dropped to the floor unconscious—all but son, Amos Appgar, who managed to crawl to the door and summon assistance. Physicians declared that the victims had been asphyxiated by gas from the carbonized fuel.

A petition signed by several Bishops and a great body of the clergy of the Church of England has been presented to the Archbishop of Canterbury calling attention to the increasing financial difficulties of the rural clergy. It has been computed that there are now 3,000 benefices under £150 per annum, and 400 under £50. While the income of the clergy decreases their enforced expenditure increases: the value of tithes and glebe land goes down and taxes on the land go up.

Sir Andrew Clarke, acting Agent-General in England of the Australian colony of Victoria, recently expressed the remarkable view that "rabies have been a curse to commerce." The occasion was an interview concerning the scheme for a Pacific cable from Australia to the western coast of this continent. All the Agents-General of the several Australian colonies were asked for their views on the project. All were in favor of the general idea, but none thought the scheme would be self-sustaining. Sir Andrew Clarke said the existing cables were adequate for all traffic, and the proposed cable would be of no strategic value. He "thought" cables had been a curse to commerce, but he would favor the scheme on the principle of "letting the cat eat dog." They would play against one another. The Australian colonies, he said, had worked enough before them to get bread, even without butter, and they would not support a scheme to spread a curse. Sir Andrew did not afford any explanation or elucidation of his somewhat unique view concerning telegraphic communication.

ADVENTURES IN INDIA.

The Major Tells Some Episodes of a Shooting Excursion—He also Tells How His Life Was Saved by a Snake.

We were seated, the Major and I, on the veranda of the Bengal Club at Calcutta enjoying the evening air. The Major was telling me of his adventures in India, and while away the time by a narration of experiences in different parts of the world.

While sipping his drink the Major continued to give me more snake lore, and finally wound up with this question: "Did I ever tell you how a snake saved my life?"

It was six or seven years ago, I don't remember exactly, when I went with Capt. Foster on a shooting excursion among the hills between Siliguri and Darjeeling.

There were no tigers in the neighborhood of Siliguri, but we had reports of panthers which had been carrying off cattle near Karsoong. So we went up the road which leads to Darjeeling till we reached the locality where the latest panther had been seen: he had been seen to kill a cow, and just the sort we wanted, and so we made arrangements to hunt him up.

The panther we were after carried off a bullock only the evening before our arrival, in the vicinity of a village about two miles from Karsoong. He was certainly a powerful beast, as he dragged the bullock to the edge of a forest fully a quarter of a mile from where he pounced upon him. He had devoured a portion of the carcass, and it was thought he would return, accompanied by his family within twenty-four hours.

Accompanied by our driver and several attendants whom we employed in the village, we went to the spot and built a mychian in a position which commanded the place where the carcass lay and within easy shooting distance of it. A mychian is a platform of bamboo, raised on stilts, and covered with a thatched roof, and is used by the hunter as a place of shelter, and his presence is not so readily detected by the animal whose life is sought.

We climbed into the mychian about an hour before sunset and settled down for a quiet period of watching and waiting. There was a young moon at the time so that, in case our game failed us until daylight was wholly gone, we might have some advantage from the rays of the moon.

We took turns sleeping and watching half an hour before sunset and in this way passed the time until long after the sun had disappeared and the moon was not more than ten degrees above the horizon. I was having my snooze when Foster pulled me by the sleeve and woke me in an instant. He grasped my rifle and in the direction of the mutilated bullock, with some difficulty I made out two dark bodies there and could hear snarls and cries which were evidently made by the young panthers, whose forms were altogether invisible. We had previously fired at the carcass, and the panthers being there I was to fire at the one on our right, while Foster would try for the other. We marked our bullet so that in case of success in either of our shots we should know which was which, and have no chance of mistaking the animal.

We aimed our rifles and fired as nearly together as possible, my shot preceding Foster's just a fraction of an instant. There was a roar or howl of pain, then silence for two or three seconds, and then a rush in our direction. In the darkness and smoke we could see nothing, but in the confusion, distinctly, and it did not take long for us to be aware that one, at least, of the panthers was bent on revenge. He came straight at us and climbed the tree into my mychian.

"Get to the upper limb of the tree," I said to Foster.

"No," he said. "I'll stay with you, old fellow, and take my share."

"Get away quick!" I shouted, "and give me a chance to shoot without hitting you."

He saw the point and made a spring for a bush that was just within reach of him. As he swung himself up the panther made a jump to seize his legs, but missed them by a little. This gave me a chance to bring my rifle against the body of the beast: it was a breech-loader, into which I was my habit always to drop a cartridge immediately after firing, and it was well that I did so on this occasion. As the muzzle of the rifle touched the panther I fired and the shot was instantly fatal. To make sure that it was so I prodded the carcass several times with the muzzle of the rifle, holding it full of cartridges for another shot if there were any signs of life. Then I tried my hunting-knife with the same result and not till then did I call Foster to descend from his perch. The panther was as dead as Julius Caesar and there was no danger of his coming back.

Then we wondered how the shot at the other panther had resulted. We could hear the young ones snarling over their meal, but no signs of any other life in that quarter. Still, it was not safe to descend into the darkness to see the result, as it is not infrequently happens that a tiger, panther or leopard apparently dead will suddenly spring up and inflict serious if not fatal wounds upon any one who happens to be near. We knew that our shikari and attendants in the village would be waiting for us, and we would not have long to wait for them: so we decided to stay where we were till they came.

In fifteen or twenty minutes their torches appeared in the distance: we shouted for them to hurry up, and they came on at a run. They stopped at the foot of our tree and we descended to join them in the search for the mate of the fellow that was lying in our mychian and was afterwards tumbling to the ground by the shikari. It was the father of the family, and his report of his size had not been exaggerated in the least. He was five feet three inches long without the tail and when standing must have been fully two feet eight inches high. I sent him to England, and you can see it there if you care to go to the London and Glasgow Zoological Gardens. It was my first bullet wound. I was my first bullet killed him, and my second that killed him, so he was clearly my property. The mate had been shot through the heart by Foster, and was lying where she fell. There were three other cubs, but they were too much trouble to handle. The little rascals scratched the men with a good deal of viciousness when torn from their repast on the flesh of the bullock.

We went back to the village and spent the next day in preparing the skins and prizes and getting them into a good condition for preservation. Then we hunted pheasants and other small game for two or three days, having had our fill for the moment of panther hunting. We made good at Siliguri, as birds were scarce, and I did not specifically find I should I did not find it, followed by my gun bearer, but before I reached it the big drops began to fall, and the gun bearer was several yards in advance of me and the shelter of the tree sooner than I did. As he got beneath it he gave a glance upwards and then fell in the direction of the forest as fast as his legs would carry him.

When I arrived at the tree I looked upward and wanted to run, too, or rather, wanted my gun which the bearer was carrying slung over his shoulder as he ran. There was an enormous banyan tree in the fork of the tree, and I was evidently in a bad way, as he had darted his hand in my direction as though to intimate that I had no business there. If I had only had my gun I would have made short work of him, but without any weapon other than my hunting-knife I was in no condition for taking the offensive or even for defending myself.

ADVENTURES IN INDIA.

The Major Tells Some Episodes of a Shooting Excursion—He also Tells How His Life Was Saved by a Snake.

So I concluded to follow the example of the gun-bearer, and also his footsteps, my intention being to overtake him and then, as soon as the rain had ceased, to come back and settle the affairs to the hilt. How I wish I imagine that the snake was my friend!

I reached the edge of the forest, a quarter of a mile from the solitary tree and there found my gun-bearer whom I upbraided for running away as he did. He was pale and his face was as white as the sheet, but the lightning, which was flashing vividly all about us, while the rain came down in sheets, and while he was talking to him there came a flash more blinding, and a report far louder, than all the rest, and as I turned my face to the open I saw the bolt had shivered to fragments the tree from which I had fled to avoid the presence of the huge snake held in its possession.

When the rain stopped I went back to the tree, which was now broken and prostrate on the ground, having been driven from top to bottom, and its tenant, the lying dead beneath it. If I had been there when the flash of lightning came I would assuredly have been killed, and out of the report for the reptile that saved me by putting my face to the open I saw the bolt had shivered to fragments the tree from which I had fled to avoid the presence of the huge snake held in its possession.

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